



# Idaho State Senate

DEMOCRATIC LEADER  
State Capitol Building

P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0081

RE  
AN  
GRIZZLY BEAR  
COORDINATING OFFICE

OCT 14 1997

MARGUERITE McLAUGHLIN  
DISTRICT 7  
BENEWAH, CLEARWATER,  
IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS,  
NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

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October 8, 1997

Rich Clough, Director  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 5127  
Missoula MT 59806

Dear Director Clough:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed re-introduction of grizzly bears to Central Idaho.

1 As an elected official representing some 28,000 Idahoans, I have grave concerns about any plan that proposes to bring bears into the Selway-Bitterroot area because I believe they would limit recreational opportunities and pose a significant threat both to human life and to the health of the natural resource industries that are the heart of my district.

2 My first choice, therefore, would be to do no introductions and afford no protection to any grizzlies that might enter the area. If that proves impossible, I would reluctantly support the plan drafted by the timber industry and conservation groups, in which a limited number of bears would be introduced each year as a 'non-essential experimental' population.

Thank you for considering my comments. As you hear testimony on this issue, I urge you to keep the interests of all the people of northcentral Idaho in mind.

Sincerely,

*Marguerite*

Marguerite McLaughlin  
Senator, District 7

P.S. For me, the only place grizzly bears belong is on the football field in Missoula!

cc: Gov. Phil Batt

Steve Mealey, Director, Idaho Department of Fish & Game

Dr. Richard E. Meiers, Chairman, Idaho Fish & Game Commission

Pat Cudmore, Intergovernmental Policy, Idaho Department of Fish & Game